Call for Mentees for the Mentoring for ESD-Leadership Programme 2020

Why ESD?
Without a sustained and global education effort, sustainable development is not achievable. Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) reflects this effort through a holistic approach that aims at enabling people to understand the effects of their own actions on future generations and other parts of the world and to act responsibly in a complex world. This enables them to develop local solutions to counter global challenges. Engagement Global gGmbH in cooperation with the ESD Expert Net is offering the Mentoring for ESD-Leadership Programme for young professionals to contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4.7 by promoting ESD in different projects across the four partner countries of the ESD Expert Net.

What is the mentoring programme about?
From March until December 2020, twenty mentees, five each from Germany, South Africa, Mexico and India, will undergo leadership mentoring through an equal number of mentors from the ESD Expert Net in a blended learning format, meaning a mix of face-to-face workshops/trainings and online learning modules. The phases of the ten months programme are structured as follows:

- Mar 2020: 1 month Online phase I
- Apr/May 2020: 1 week Introductory week, Germany
- Apr - Jul 2020: 3 months Online phase II
- Aug/Sep 2020: 3 days National workshops
- Aug - Nov 2020: 3 months Online phase III
- Nov/Dec 2020: 1 week Conclusion event

The content of the programme comprises three areas:

- ESD key concepts & approaches
- ESD-Leadership
- ESD Project Management

What do I gain from the programme?
Mentoring is the most effective means of building upon existing expertise and transforming the practitioners of today into leaders of tomorrow by imparting hands-on experience in ESD. In the Mentoring for ESD-Leadership Programme, the mentees will get an exposure to the international ESD Expert Net and a chance to interact with 20 mentors and a wider group of resource persons, representing institutions from across Germany, India, Mexico and South Africa. The mentors in the
programme are members of the ESD Expert Net with profound professional expertise from universities, the public and the private sector, research institutions, schools as well as non-governmental organisations in all four countries involved. This will allow the mentees to get to know different perspectives and views on the challenges and solutions linked to ESD.

The programme is designed to enable people engaged in full-time occupation. It is open to professionals between 25-35 years of age already working on or at least with an interest to work on ESD. The main objective of the programme is to provide young professionals with leadership competencies, thus, helping them to develop into reflective ESD practitioners. Learning will be practice-oriented and will allow the mentees to work elaborately on a concrete project in the field of ESD in a co-constructional process with their mentors.

Who is involved in the programme?
Engagement Global gGmbH is the central contact agency for development policy initiatives in Germany since 2012. Under its roof, it unites institutions, initiatives and support programmes of developmental work with the aim to actively promote a fair global coexistence. Engagement Global with the ESD Expert Net is also a key partner of UNESCO in implementing the Global Action Programme (GAP) on Education for Sustainable Development.

The ESD Expert Net was founded in 2010 at the behest of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. The aim is to equate the international dialogue on ESD with other topics and to exchange ideas with important emerging countries on how education can help solve global problems. The Expert Net involves members from different institutions in Germany, India, South Africa and Mexico. These four countries were selected, because national action plans had already been put in place there as part of the UN Decade of ESD (2005-2014).

Who can apply?
Mentees are young professionals who are either, employed, freelancers, unemployed or volunteers with practical experience, preferably at grassroots/field level. Unemployed applicants must be at least actively participating in a project. Applicants need to be based in Germany, Mexico, South Africa or India (either be citizens or residents for the next 4-5 years). They should preferably be between 25-35 years of age and have a minimum of one-year working experience either in the field of ESD or looking for a lateral entry into ESD.

How to apply?
Mentees fill in an application form along with a short project proposal (max. two pages). The purpose of the project should be to implement SDG 4.7: “By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development.” The project proposal can build on an activity the applicant has already been working on. It should, but in any case include the following information: objective of the project, target group, methodological approach, measures, timeline, and resources.
Please submit the following documents:

- Filled out application form
- A concrete project proposal (up to two pages)
- In case the fields provided in the application form are not enough to highlight your experience, please attach your detailed CV.

Mentee selection criteria:

- At least intermediate English skills
- Quality, relevance and feasibility of the project proposal
- Experience of at least one year (voluntary experience will also be considered), preferably in education, development cooperation or a related field
- If employed, employer support through the length of the mentoring programme (employers don’t have to bear any costs)
- If unemployed, proven participation in project
- Availability to attend the face-to-face meetings and online exchange formats of the programme
- In possession of a valid passport (minimum validity until December 2020)

How will the mentees be selected?

Based on pre-defined criteria Engagement Global and members of the ESD Expert Net will shortlist the applications, based on pre-defined criteria. All shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interview through Skype/WebEx and the final decision will be taken based on the interviews. The matching between mentor and mentee will follow the final selection of mentees, taking into consideration the expertise required to collaborate on the mentee’s project. To this effect, mentor and mentee will be from the same country to ensure a meaningful cooperation.

Deadline for the submission of applications: 26 January 2020
Interviews for shortlisted applicants: presumably February 2020

Please send your application to Mentoring.ESD@engagement-global.de.

Incomplete applications will not be considered for the selection process.

Emails of all the interested applicants will be stored within the norms of the German Data Protection Act. You will be included in the ESD mailing list to benefit from important updates about the programme in the future. In case you do not wish to be part of the mailing list, kindly send us a short email, once the selection process has ended.